

Remarks

This is in reply to the restriction requirement of December 17, 2007.

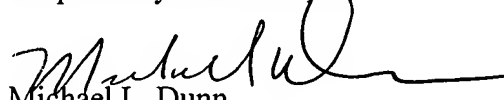
Group II, including claim 28, is elected with traverse.

It is not seen that the inventions are independent and/or distinct or lack unity of invention. All claims are for a stereomicroscope having a particular illumination system including arrangement of optical elements. Arrangement of optical elements is integral with and required by the illumination system. Conversely, to be functional, the optical arrangement requires the illumination system to be functional. The arrangement of the invention permits observation of the illumination. The optical arrangements relate to embodiments of the illumination system and vice versa and thus definitely relate to the same corresponding technical feature of the claimed microscope.

Even if the restriction were proper, which it is not, it is clear that claim 28 is both generic and a linking claim. Allowance of claim 28 requires that all claims be rejoined.

The restriction should be withdrawn

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 17, 2008